

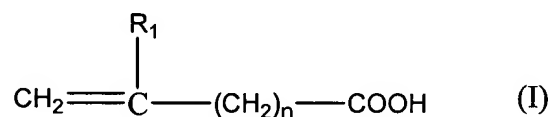
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-23 (canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing an electrical cable comprising at least one conductor and at least one layer of extruded insulating coating, comprising:

a) coating, by extrusion, the conductor with a polymeric composition comprising a polyethylene, a radical initiator and at least one unsaturated carboxylic acid of general formula (I) in free form:



in which:

R₁ represents H or CH₃;

n represents 0 or 1;

said unsaturated carboxylic acid being present in an amount of between 0.0006% and 0.25% by weight, said amount being expressed as the weight content of -COOH groups relative to the total weight of the polymeric composition; and

b) heating the conductor thus coated so as to obtain cross-linking of said polymeric composition.

25. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 24, wherein the unsaturated carboxylic acid of general formula (I) is present in an amount of between

0.02% and 0.15% by weight, said amount being expressed as the weight content of -COOH groups relative to the total weight of the polymeric composition.

26. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 24, wherein the radical initiator is present in an amount of between 0.5 and 5 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the polymeric composition.

27. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 26, wherein the radical initiator is present in an amount of between 1.5 and 3 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the polymeric composition.

28. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 24, wherein the unsaturated carboxylic acid of general formula (I) is added to the polyethylene in the form of granules.

29. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 24, wherein the unsaturated carboxylic acid of general formula (I) is mixed with the polyethylene directly in an extruder cylinder.

30. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 24, wherein the polyethylene is an ethylene homopolymer or a copolymer of ethylene with at least one α -olefin having a density of between 0.860 g/cm³ and 0.940 g/cm³.

31. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 30, wherein the α -olefin is an olefin of general formula $\text{CH}_2=\text{CH-R}$ in which R represents a linear or branched alkyl group containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms.

32. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 31, wherein the α -olefin is chosen from propylene, 1-butene, 1-pentene, 4-methyl-1-pentene, 1-hexene, 1-octene or 1-dodecene.

33. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 24, wherein the polyethylene is chosen from medium density polyethylene having a density of between 0.926 g/cm^3 and 0.940 g/cm^3 ; low density polyethylene or linear low density polyethylene having a density of between 0.910 g/cm^3 and 0.926 g/cm^3 .

34. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 24, wherein the radical initiator is an organic peroxide.

35. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 34, wherein the organic peroxide is chosen from dicumyl peroxide, t-butylcumyl peroxide, 2,5-dimethyl-2,5-di (t-butyl-peroxy) hexane or di-t-butyl peroxide.

36. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 34, wherein the unsaturated carboxylic acid of general formula (I) is chosen from acrylic acid or vinyl acetic acid.

37. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 36, wherein the unsaturated carboxylic acid of general formula (I) is acrylic acid.

Claims 38-57 (Canceled)